



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	Application Number	10/070,246
	Filing Date	June 26, 2002
	First Named Inventor	Colin John Hunter
	Group Art Unit	1742
	Examiner Name	Tirna M. McGuthry-Banks
	Attorney Docket Number	2145-133
Title of the Invention: Improved Bacterial Oxidation of Sulphide Ores and Concentrates		

### AMENDMENT

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DEC 23 2002

TC 1700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 26, 2002, please amend the subject application as follows:

In the Specification:

Replace the specification of record with the accompanying substitute specification. No new matter has been entered.

In the Claims:

Amend claims 18 through 20 and 24 through 30 as follows.

18. (Amended) A process for the bacterial oxidation of sulphide ores and concentrates characterised in that the ore or concentrate is leached at a grind or crush size of greater than  $P_{80}$  75  $\mu$ m with a bacterial culture operative across a temperature range of about 40 to 65 °C, the bacterial culture having been adapted to the ore or concentrate prior to leaching.

19. (Amended) A process according to claim 18, characterised in that the leach is conducted in a form selected from the group consisting of:

- a heap leach,
- a tank leach,
- a vat leach, and

p. 2  
prior art  
may not  
work with  
this  
claim

p. 6 -  
only used  
these  
one  
bacterial  
mixed culture

Do  
scope to  
limit  
bacteria  
to  
claim 25  
mixed  
culture  
- use  
admission  
on p. 2  
of spec

10  
B  
12/13/02  
prior art  
would  
work  
as long as  
concentration  
occurs